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ABSTRACT

Noting that, in Canada, 10,000 child care programs serve children and families of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, this video examines the characteristics and benefits of high quality programs. The 22-minute video first cites two reasons why quality child care is a current issue: the increasing number of women in the workforce and research showing the positive impact of high quality programs on how a child learns, regardless of the child's background or whether the mother works. The video then defines child care, and explores the characteristics of high quality programs, including stable and consistent caregiving, age-appropriate activities, and hygienic facilities and routines. Characteristics of high quality caregivers are then listed, including training in early childhood education, skills needed to encourage cooperative relationships, and a sympathetic, warm, caring demeanor. Additional factors contributing to high quality in a care program are noted, such as solid regulation and supervision, and not-for-profit operation. The video next notes that high quality child care is a unique endeavor in that it benefits several groups at the same time: children, families, women, employers, communities, and society at large. The benefits specific to each of these groups are then detailed. The video concludes by noting that high quality programs are exceptions rather than the rule, and advocates Canadian public policy to invest in high quality program standards. (HTH)

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